

McGuireWoods LLP
Washington Square
1050 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036-5317
Phone: 202.857.1700
Fax: 202.857.1737
www.mcguirewoods.com

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June 22, 2006

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Joint Petitions for Study Area Waiver
Rural Telephone Service Company, Inc
Docket No. 96-45**


Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 21, 2006, Tony Lee, Tom Walls, and Carly Grey of McGuireWoods LLP met with Katherine King and Gary Siegel of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss the Joint Petition for Waiver of the Definition of "Study Area" filed jointly in the above-referenced docket by Rural Telephone Service Company, Inc. ("Rural Telephone"), Nex-Tech, Inc., United Telephone Company of Kansas, and United Telephone of Eastern Kansas (the aforementioned United Telephone companies are referred to collectively as "United Telephone"), as well as a similar Joint Petition for Waiver filed by Rural Telephone and Gorham Telephone Company, Inc.

At the meeting, Rural Telephone provided information regarding improvements that the company will bring to the exchanges that it plans to acquire from United Telephone, and the impact on subscribers should the petitions not be granted. Rural Telephone also provided information regarding the impact of the transaction on the USF Fund, FCC approval of the Rural Telephone and United Telephone Section 214 application, the status of the Kansas Corporation Commission's approval of the acquisition, and the status of Rural Telephone and Gorham Telephone Company's streamlined Section 214 application. A copy of the handouts provided to staff is attached hereto.

Should you have any questions with respect to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (202) 857-1707

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony S. Lee", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony S. Lee

Counsel for Rural Telephone Service
Company, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Katie King
Gary Seigel

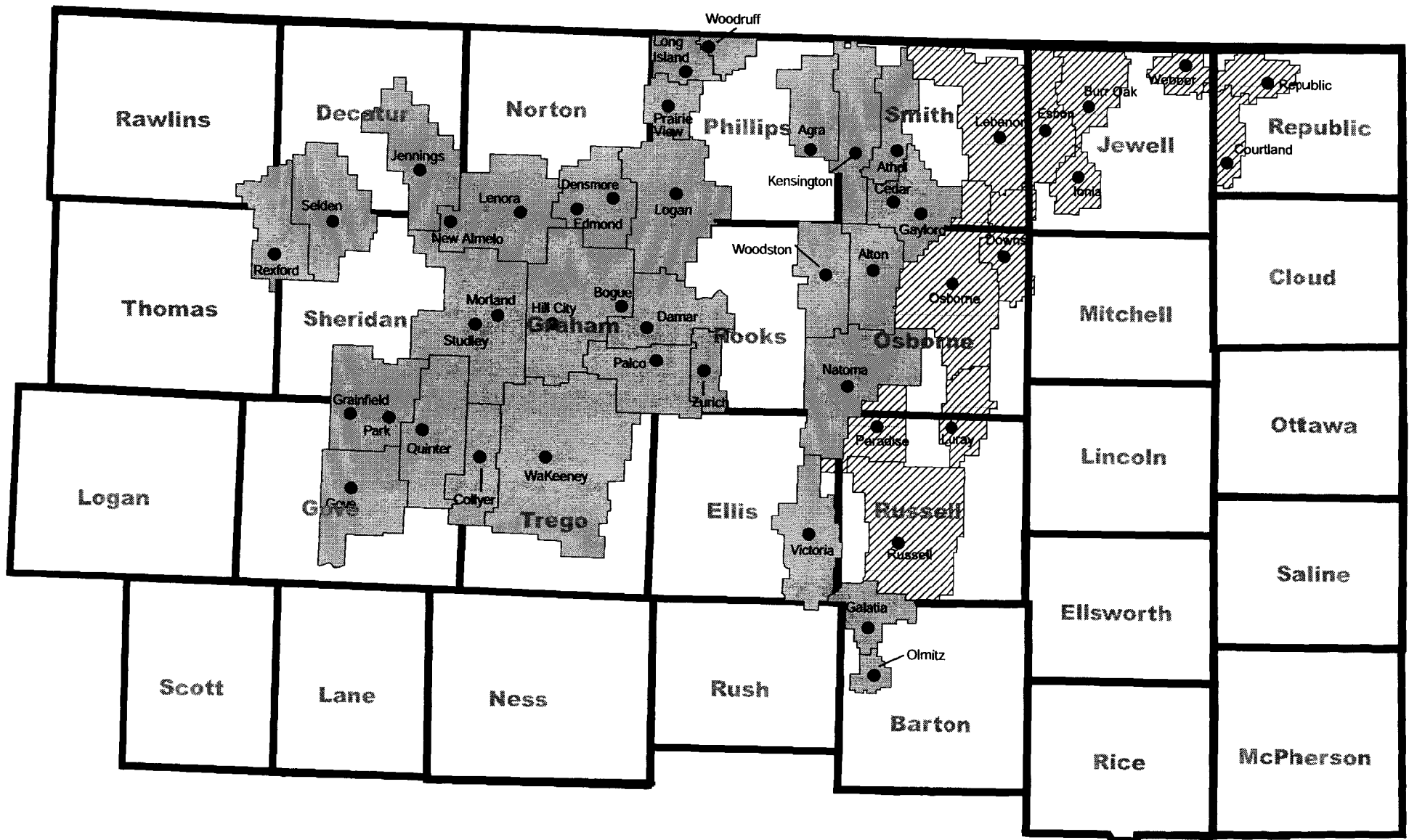
DOCKET NO 96-45
MEETING WITH FCC STAFF REGARDING
SPRINT/UNITED STUDY AREA WAIVER
JUNE 21, 2006

I. Rural Telephone and United

- Background
- Improvements in service that Rural will provide in the acquired exchanges
- Impact on the USF Fund
- FCC approval of Section 214 Application
- Update on KCC approval
- Timing of the transaction
- Already assumed operational responsibilities in Russell after a Sprint broadband Internet service interruption
- Impact on Rural subscribers if forced to close without the waiver

II. Rural Telephone and Gorham

- Background
- Relationship to the Rural/United transaction
- Status of Section 214 Application – streamlined approval (Docket No. 06-117)
- Timing of the transaction



2006
RURAL TELEPHONE
EXCHANGE MAP *-with Sprint/United Acquisition*



RTSC - Exchanges



**Acquired Sprint/United Exchanges
 and Nex-Tech Osborne Lines**